

Community Planning and Economic Development News Release

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Cinema in the Cemetery Returns Memorial Day Weekend with Buster Keaton's, *The Navigator*, to Benefit Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery Restoration Efforts

Film score to be played live by local music group Dreamland Faces

Thursday, May 21, 2015 (MINNEAPOLIS) - On Saturday, May, 23, the Friends of the Cemetery in partnership with the Trylon Microcinema will host a screening of Buster Keaton's 1924 film, "The Navigator," accompanied by a live score by local music group Dreamland Faces. The screening will take place at the historic Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery located at 2925 Cedar Avenue, Minneapolis.

"*The Navigator* is quintessential Buster Keaton," said John Morret, film curator for the Cinema in the Cemetery Film Series. "Two ill-equipped youngsters find themselves adrift on an ocean liner. Slapstick and Keaton's inability to handle giant machines make this a perfect family summer film outdoors."

Established in 1853, Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery is the oldest in Minneapolis. It is the final resting place of over 21,000 pioneers, veterans, and immigrants, many of whom made major contributions to Minneapolis history, in addition to soldiers of the War of 1812, the Dakota Conflict, the Civil War, the Mexican-American War, the Spanish-American War, and World War I. Notable individuals buried in the cemetery include Philander Prescott, Charles W. Christmas, and William Goodridge.

In 2008, the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota placed the cemetery on the list of "Ten Most Endangered Historic Places" in Minnesota due to its need for substantial improvements. Today, the restoration project is near completion, with the final components being added. Proceeds from this year's event will be used to restore 65 limestone piers that line the cemetery on Lake Street and Cedar Avenue.

"Public support has been critical in helping us secure funding for the restoration," said Sue Hunter Weir, president of Friends of the Cemetery. "Movies, concerts and tours are some of

the ways that we can introduce people who are unfamiliar with the cemetery to its unique place in our city's history."

The event will begin at 7:00 p.m. with a smart phone history hunt for those arriving early. Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets and lawn chairs; pets, video recording, coolers, and alcoholic beverages are prohibited during the event. Food will be available for purchase from the [Taco Taxi](#) food truck.

The Friends of the Cemetery are hoping for at least 500 people to participate in the festivities on Saturday. Tickets are \$10 online or at the gate for attendees over 12; the event is free for children under 12. Tickets can be purchased in advance online at [Brown Paper Tickets](#). On the day of the event, cash-only tickets will be sold at the door. If you are unable to attend, but would still like to support cemetery's restoration, you can visit the [Friends of the Cemetery website](#) to Adopt-A-Picket for \$30 or make another donation.

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